

Temperature Sensitive Medication Storage During Natural Disaster



Team Introductions



Zoe Dillehay Systems Integration Engineer Travis Amaral Project Manager & Research Engineer

Nick Georgevich Design Engineer Keon Glass Entrepreneurial Leader & Research Engineer Diego Mendoza Electrical Engineer Andrew Sayers Quality Control Engineer



Sponsors



Dr. Michael Devine

- Entrepreneur in Residence and an Adjunct Professor at FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
- Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering (Operations Research)





Advisor



Dr. Shayne McConomy

- Teaching instructor at FAMU-FSU College of Engineering
- Ph.D. in Automotive Engineering









Our objective is to develop a device that stores and maintains the quality of temperature sensitive medication in the event of a natural disaster that causes mass power outages



Background and Motivation

During large scale natural disasters, diabetes related deaths skyrocket

One University of South Florida study suggests increase of elderly diabetes related deaths up to 40% ^[1]



Insulin requires temperatures between 2°C and 8°C (35°F and 46°F)

[1] Quast, T., et al. (2019). Long-Term Effects of Disasters on Seniors With Diabetes: Evidence From Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.







Targets & Metrics







Concept Generation



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Reaching our temperature target





Reaching our temperature target



Ensuring the entire cold plate is within range





Reaching our temperature target



Ensuring the entire cold plate is within range



Optimize cool down time





Reaching our temperature target



Ensuring the entire cold plate is within range



Optimize cool down time



Keeping temperature within range for 14 days



Temperature Gradient Test

- Better understand the difference in temperature across the plate
- Took temperature readings closest and furthest from TEC
- Test ran for 30 minutes





Temperature Gradient Test

Temperature vs. Time



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Temperature Gradient Test

- Results:
 - Temperature difference was 4°C at its worst and 3°C at its best without insulation
 - Temperature difference is acceptable to keep medicine within 2°C and 8°C
 - Cold plate was fully in range after about 27 minutes
 - Additional TEC will not be needed



Parts Ordered



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Current Issues





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Current Issues













Redesigned Cold Plate





Redesigned Cold Plate





Method of Securing: Selection

- Previous Ideas
 - Elastic Bands
 - Clasps
 - Magnetic Straps





- Current Selection
 - Hook and Loop Strap





Method of Securing: Hook & Loop Strap

- One band wrapped around cold plate
- Secured onto bottom of cold plate
- Accommodates various pen/vial diameters
- Handle on top, overlapping strap





Second Seal: Insulation Purse

- Cut out for cold plate
- Double Zipper design allows variable opening size









Second Seal: Insulation Purse







Updated Internal Assembly







Utilizing a Buck Converter

- Efficiently converts high voltage to low voltage supplied, thus increasing current
- Efficient power conversion leads to
 - An extended battery life
 - Reduces heat





Circuit with Buck Converter







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Current Testing

Buck Converter Test:

- Began initial testing with Buck Converter wired to Peltier plate.
- Used Temperature Control Switch and Thermocouple for readings.
- The test was started at a higher initial temperature than gradient test.

| Voltage (V) | Current (A) | Buck voltage (V) | Total Time (min) |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| 12 | 3.89 | 9 | 30 |

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Buck Converter Test

Buck Test vs. Gradient Test





Buck Converter Test

Results:

- Temperature decreased by 15 degrees in under 11 minutes
- Thermocouple failed towards end of project
- Buck Converter test with correction shows that it got cooler quicker



Semester Plan: Parts to Order





Semester Plan: Assembly

- Laser cut hole inside cooler to fit in TEC and cold plate
- Redesign and fabricate new cold plate
- Assemble insulation inside cooler (wool and spray)
- Thermal glue cold plate onto TEC
- Wire TEC with temperature control switch and connect solar panel



Semester Plan: Continuing Validation



Reaching our temperature target



Ensuring the entire cold plate is within range



Optimizing cool down time



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Any Questions?

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